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SEPTEMBER 15, 1967

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

President Johnson today will award the National Security Medal posthumously to Desmond FitzGerald, a former Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency who died July 23.

The President will present the Medal to Mr. FitzGerald's widow in a private ceremony at the White House.

The Medal was established in 1953 as an award for outstanding contribution in the field of intelligence relating to national security.

Text of the citation accompanying award of the National Security Medal to Desmond FitzGerald:

"As an American of high dedication to the principles upon which our nation was founded, Mr. FitzGerald on two occasions left the practice of law to offer his unusual talents to his Government. Enlisting as a private in the United States Army in the early days of World War II, Mr. FitzGerald served gallantly and with distinction in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater until his separation as a Major after the close of hostilities.

"He again volunteered his services to the nation, when, at the outbreak of war in Korea, he became a member of the Central Intelligence Agency. In the following sixteen years Mr. FitzGerald's exceptional competence and stimulating leadership won the confidence of his associates and established a standard of excellence to guide and inspire others who will follow in the intelligence service of our country. In achieving the remarkable accomplishments that have been of major significance to the United States during periods of world crisis, Mr. FitzGerald gave unstintingly of himself and his energies, of his courage and imagination. His unchallenged integrity matched only by his passion for anonymity set precedents difficult to follow but of high importance to our government. Mr. FitzGerald's valuable contribution to the strength of our nation's foreign intelligence effort upholds the finest traditions of the Federal service. "

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